

From: [Rose Longoria](#)
To: [Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Cc: [Sheila Fleming](#); [Robert Dexter](#)
Subject: FW: LWG Background Proposal
Date: 04/29/2008 04:31 PM
Attachments: [Background Methods Proposal 4-24-08.pdf](#)

Chip / Eric –

Below are comments related to the Background Data Methods proposal.

~rose

From: Sheila Fleming [mailto:sheila@ridolfi.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2008 4:10 PM
To: Rose Longoria
Cc: Robert Dexter
Subject: FW: LWG Background Proposal

Rose,

Bob and I reviewed LWG's Draft Background Data Methods Proposal. I also compared LWG's Proposal to my notes from the March 12, 2008 'Background' meeting. We have the following comments/questions:

1. Item I.b. Tissue. LWG's Proposal states that "upriver tissue data [will] only [be] used for informational purposes in the RI". This is a different interpretation than I had of Eric's comment at the March 12 meeting. My understanding is that the upriver tissue data will not be presented or discussed by LWG in the RI, but rather EPA will use these data for risk communication purposes. Perhaps we could get further clarification from EPA or LWG about whether and how the tissue data will be presented in the RI.
2. Items II. c. and d. One of the assumptions of the background data is that it shares a common source—the “background” input. As such, the relative concentrations of the substances in the background samples should be similar. This similarity can be used to:
 - Use the concentrations of detected substances to predict the concentrations of non-detected, covariant substance. This aspect is useful both for relatively independent substances, as well as estimating the total concentration of mixtures such as the PCBs.
 - Use the substance ratios to better determine whether a reported concentration is an outlier, e.g., if the ratios of the other substances in a suspect sample are consistent with other “normal” samples, but the concentration ratio of Substance X is not consistent, that is further indication that the reported concentration of Substance X is an outlier.
3. Item II. b. The use of non-detect data should be done carefully, ensuring that the detection limits are similar among the data sets to avoid biasing the data by including data sets with unrealistic detection limits.

4. Item III.b. While the sediment data for the hydrophobic organic compounds will be normalized to organic carbon, no normalization is proposed for the metals or other substances. The concentrations of many of the metals are known to be influenced by sediment texture or organic carbon (or both). As a minimum, the distributions of the metals should be examined visually as a function of sediment grain size.

Please let me know if you have any questions or we can discuss these items during the May 1, 2008 conference call.

I hope everything goes well tomorrow.

Sheila

-----Original Message-----

From: Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2008 12:16 PM
To: Shephard.Burt@epamail.epa.gov; Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov;
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Subject: Fw: LWG Background Proposal

For next Thursday's meeting.

Eric

----- Forwarded by Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US on 04/25/2008 12:15 PM

"Valerie Oster"
<voster@anchoren
v.com>

04/25/2008 10:48
AM

To
Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA,
Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
cc

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FW: LWG Background Proposal

Chip, Eric -

Please see below and attached.

thanks
valerie

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From: Gene Revelas [<mailto:grevelas@integral-corp.com>]
Sent: Fri 4/25/2008 10:45 AM
To: Valerie Oster
Cc: Christine Hawley; Bob Wyatt; Carl Stivers; David Ashton; Jim McKenna;
John Toll; Keith Pine; Laura Kennedy; Mark Lewis; Rick Applegate

Subject: LWG Background Proposal

Valerie - please forward to EPA. Thanks, Gene

Chip/Eric -

Attached is the LWG's Draft Background Methods Proposal for discussion at our meeting next Thursday morning, May 1st. Please call if you have questions.

Gene

Gene Revelas
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(See attached file: Background Methods Proposal 4-24-08.pdf)